

2. DIDELPHIS CRASSICAUDATA.

PLATE XXX.

Didelphis crassicaudata, *Desmarest*, Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. 2d Ed. ix. p. 425.

——— *Mammalogie*, p. 257, Species 393.

Microure troisième, ou Macroure à grosse queue, *Azara*, Essais sur l'Histoire Nat. des Quad. de la Province de Paraguay, vol. i. p. 284.

D. capite brevi; auribus parvis; colore corporis fusciscenti-flavo subtile pallidior; infra oculos flavescens; caudā crassā, caput corpusque, quoad longitudinem, fere æquante; ad basin corporis colore tinctā, dein nigra, ad apicem albā.

DESCRIPTION.—Head short; ears small, the posterior edge emarginated near the base, distinctly furnished with hairs; tail slightly exceeding the body in length, very thick at the base; tarsi small; fur moderately long, slightly harsh, and somewhat adpressed (much less woolly than in most Opossums): general tint brownish yellow, under parts paler; anterior angle of the eye and muzzle brown, the tip of the chin, and also the tip of the muzzle on either side whitish; on the cheeks, a little below the eyes, is a patch of yellow which extends round the angle of the mouth: about one-third of the tail is covered with fur of the same colour and character as that on the body; beyond this the tail is black, excepting a small portion, about one inch in length, at the apex, which is white; and the hairs are short, closely adpressed, and scarcely hide the scales which are beneath: the fore portion of each foot is brown: the hairs covering the ears on the outer side are brownish, and those on the inner side of the ear are yellow, but towards the outer margin they are brown. The hairs of the back have the basal half gray, and the apical half ochreous, terminating in yellowish brown; on the belly and underside of neck, the hairs are ochreous, faintly tinted with gray at the base.

	In.	Lines.		In.	Lines.
Length from nose to root of tail	1	3	Length of tarsus	1	5½
of tail	10	3	of ear	0	6
from nose to ear	2	1½			

Habitat, Maldonado, La Plata, (June).

The species described by Azara, under the name *Macroure à grosse queue*, agrees so perfectly with the present animal, that I have no hesitation in referring

it to the *Didelphis crassicaudata* of Desmarest, which is founded upon Azara's description.

The head of the *Didelphis crassicaudata* is shorter and less pointed than in most other Opossums; the ears are unusually small, and the tail is very thick. In the character of the fur also, this species differs from most others, the hairs being rather short and somewhat adpressed; and the soft under-fur being very scanty. Upon separating the fur on the back and sides of the body, numerous young hairs were visible in the specimen from which the above description is taken, and these were of a bright rusty red tint; the colouring of the animal therefore would, in all probability, have been very different after a short time, had it not been killed. Those observed by Azara varied considerably in their colouring. The skull is figured in Plate 34. figs. 25. Fig. *d* represents a ramus of the lower jaw.

	In.	Lines.
Length of the skull	2	4
Width	1	3
Length of nasal bones	0	9½
——— of palate	1	2¾
Width of palate between the posterior molars	0	5
Distance between forepart of front incisors and forepart of canine	2	0¾
Distance between forepart of canine and hinder part of last molar	1	0
Length of ramus of lower jaw (incisors not included)	1	10½

"This specimen was caught at Maldonado: it weighed 14½ oz."—D.

3. DIDELPHIS ELEGANS.

PLATE XXXI.

D. vellere longo et molli, corpore suprà cinereo-fuscescente lavato; pedibus corporeque subtile albis, oculis nigro circumdati, interspatio cinerescens; auribus magnis fusciscentibus; caudā, capite et corpore, paulo brevior.

DESCRIPTION.—Muzzle slender and pointed; ears large; tail rather shorter than the head and body taken together; fur long and very soft: general tint of the upper parts of the head and body ashy-gray washed with brown; on the sides of the body, especially near the shoulders, a faint yellowish tint is observable; the lower part of the cheeks, the throat, under parts of the body and the feet, are white, with an indistinct yellowish tint; the eyes are encircled with brownish-black, which tint is extended forwards on to the sides of the muzzle; the upper surface of the muzzle and the inter-orbital space is